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INFILTRATION

> THE TRANSFORMERS #5

>INFILTRATION

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>>>>>

INFILTRATION:

Having ascertained that, for reasons unknown, the DECEPTICON INFILTRATION UNIT on Earth has switched the location of its underground Command Bunker, RATCHET and BUMBLEBEE–aided and abetted by the human trio of VERITY, HUNTER, and JIMMY–investigate the now-abandoned bunker in Nebraska. But, with the three humans gathering vital data underground, DECEPTICONS SKYWARP and BLITZWING attack, meaning to bury the bunker forever...

PHASE ONE CONTINUES...

>>>>>

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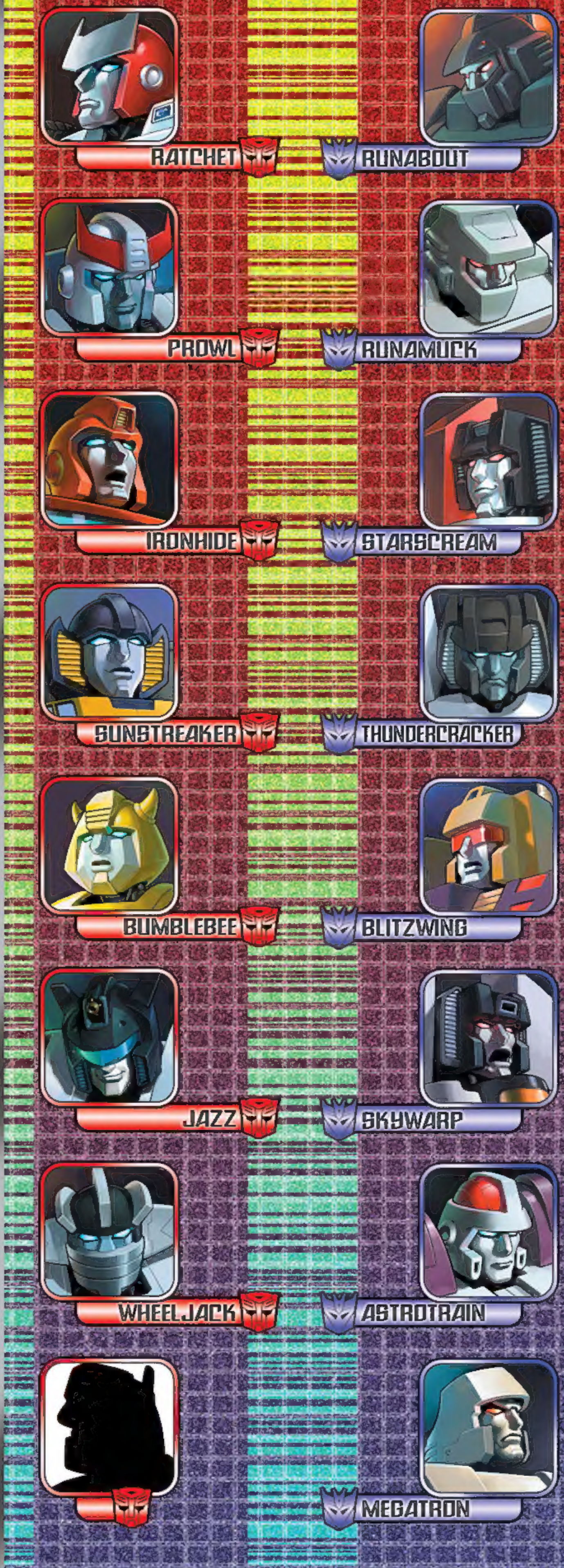

NORTHWEST NEBRASKA:

RATCHET? *RATCHET?* ARE YOU... OKAY?

FH. *HN.* BIT...

...RUN DOWN.

UH? OH, YEAH, GOOD. HAVEN'T LOST YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR, THEN.

C'MON, DOC— UP AND *AT* 'EM.

EHH-NNN... THE DECEPTICONS?

IGNORING US. GUESS WE DON'T SCORE HIGH ON THEIR THREAT-O-METER.

THOOM THOOM THOOM THOOM THOOM

ANYWAY, THEY'RE *NOT* OUR IMMEDIATE PROBLEM. WE HAVE TO GET THE HUMANS *OUT* OF THE *COMMAND BUNKER*...

...BEFORE IT BECOMES A *TOMB!*

JIMMY? VERITY?

YOU GETTING THIS? FEELS LIKE THE WHOLE PLACE IS COMING DOWN!

>CRZK

YEAH, AN' IT'S GETTING WORSE.

I'M *AT* THE EXIT POINT. *YOU?*

ALMOST THERE... I THINK. IS VERITY *WITH* YOU?

>CRZK

NO SIGN. COULD BE SHE'S ALREADY TOPSIDE.

OR *NOT.* SHE SEEMED DEAD SET ON CHECKING OUT SOME LAST NOOK-SLASH-CRANNY.

>CRZK

VERITY? *C'MON...*

"...JUST LET US KNOW YOU'RE *SAFE!*"

THHHHHHH

THHHHHHH

THHHHHHH

THHHHHH

•REC

THHHHHH

•REC

THHHHHH

READY!!

REBOOT

GHA!
CHOKT

AH-
AH-
AH-
-AAAAAAAAA!

VERITY? VERITY?

...

SHE'S NOT UP HERE, *HUNTER.* AT LEAST... NOT EVIDENTLY.

THEN WHERE *IS* SHE? I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR HER, JIMMY. SHE COULD BE TRAPPED, HURT, *ANYTHING.* I–

>GRZK

LISTEN TO ME.

WE'VE GOT THE *ONE* R.G. THAT MEANS–

–ONE UP AT A TIME. YOU STAY DOWN THERE, AND WE HAVE TO GET YOU *AND* VERITY OUT IN A HURRY. CHANCES ARE WE WON'T MAKE IT.

KRUM

>GRZK

TRUST ME ON THIS–YOU WANT TO GIVE VERITY HER BEST SHOT, YOU GET UP HERE *NOW!*

I–

OKAY. YOU'RE RIGHT. I *SEE* THAT. SO WHY...

...DO I FEEL LIKE WE'RE *ABANDONING* HER?

DECEPTICON COMMAND BUNKER (OREGON):

ASTROTRAIN– I'M WAITING–

ANY MOMENT NOW, *STARSCREAM*. THE FIRST BATCH IS REFINING AS WE SPEAK.

THE NEBRASKA SEAM WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS. THE YIELD IS UP SEVEN HUNDRED PERCENT... AND WE'VE *BARELY* SCRATCHED THE SURFACE

ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO METABOLIZE THE *ORE-13* RESIN AND *POWER UP*.

GOOD *GOOD*...

...I'M *READY* FOR MY MEDICINE!

NEBRASKA:

IT'S *GOING!*

AND TAKING US *WITH* IT!

HUNTER, JIMMY-LET'S *MOVE OUT!*

NO. *NOT* WITHOUT VERITY!

SHE'S STILL *DOWN* THERE! WE *HAVE* TO GIVE HER MORE TIME!

WE'RE *OUT* OF TIME. THE COMMAND BUNKER SUPERSTRUCTURE HAS GIVEN WAY... THIS WHOLE AREA IS NOW ONE BIG, SUCKING *PIT.*

YOU GO. WE'RE G VING HER EVERY SECOND WE CAN. RIGHT, JIMMY?

RIGHT.

WE'RE IN THIS *TOGETHER.* VERITY'S... *SPECIAL.*

GRZK

GUYS, GUYS...

...YOU'RE BREAKING ME *UP* DOWN HERE.

>CRZK<

VERITY?

MOVE! NOW!

THE SHAFT...

"...IT'S *FILLING UP!*"

GEH-

FEH...

BUMBLEBEE- *THE TREE!*

I *SEE* IT! QUESTION IS.

..CAN I *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

WH-*HNNH!*

OH! OH, GEEZ. *VERITY?*

I... *SEE* HER.

I THINK...

ALIEN DEATH

...I CAN *REACH* HER!

HUNTER! WHATEVER YOU'RE GOING TO DO ..

. DO IT *NOW!*

ALIEN DEATHRAY

P-PULL....

PULL US *UP!*

HNNNNG!

EVERYONE IN! *HURRY!*

ALL I CAN SAY IS, WHATEVER WE *GOT* IN THERE...

...IT BETTER BE *WORTH* ALL THE GRIEF!

KERKROOF

YES!

CALL ME SHALLOW, BUT THAT IS JUST *SO* SATISFYING, RIGHT, *BLITZWING?*

MM NOT TOO SHABBY.

LET'S CALL THIS IN AND GO HOME, *SKYWARP*. I *STILL* SAY..

..THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN OUR *FIRST* PORT OF CALL, NOT OUR LAST!

WHAT WE DID HERE, WELL, IT *DESERVES* TO BE BURIED. I DUNNO, WE...

...*STOPPED* BEING DECEPTICONS, I GUESS

AHH, YOU *WORRY* TOO MUCH STARSCREAM'S RIGHT, THE PRIZE IS WORTH THE–

HEY!

THROOM

WHAT?

DUNNO.

THROOM

THOUGHT I SAW-

KAPOW

RRRIPPPGH!

MEGATRON!

LOOK, WE—

WEREN'T—

TRAITOR.

SHRIIIIKI

ZZAAAAK

IS THAT–?

OH, YEAH.

MEGATRON!

WHO?

TRUST ME, YOU'RE BETTER OFF *NOT* KNOWING. CERTAINLY NO ONE *WE'RE* IN ANY HURRY TO ENGAGE

THANKFULLY. .

"...HE SEEMS TO HAVE MORE *PRESSING* MATTERS TO ATTEND TO!"

MEGATRON, *WAIT!*

DON'T MAKE ME...

OH, WELL.

KA BOOM

HOW QUICKLY...

...THEY *FORGET.*

KA BOOM

AK-

AND SO...

CLANG

...I MUST *REMIND* THEM.

CLANG

"ALL OF THEM!"

THIS IS *OUT* OF OUR LEAGUE.

WAY OUT OF OUR LEAGUE.

SO... WHAT DO WE *DO*?

"WE ALERT THE OTHERS. EVEN *PROWL* CAN'T FAIL TO CLASSIFY *THIS* AS A CRISIS SITUATION.

"BUMBLEBEE, YOU GET ROLLING. I THINK WE CAN GUESS WHERE MEGATRON'S HEADED *NEXT*. AS FOR ME, I'LL ANALYSE WHATEVER DATA HUNTER AND THE OTHERS GOT FROM THE COMMAND BUNKER.

"WE *NEED* TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. BECAUSE RIGHT NOW...

"...IT DOESN'T SEEM TO INVOLVE *US* AT ALL!"

STAR...

...SCREAM...

ILLINOIS:

IT'S KIND OF *PIECEMEAL*, BUT HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE...

A GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SHAFT AND SOME VARIETY OF UPGRADED REFINING APPARATUS. MEGATRON WAS *VERY* INTERESTED IN THAT.

EVIDENCE THROUGHOUT THE COMMAND BUNKER OF MODIFIED *DELIVERY* CAPSULES. TRACE READINGS INDICATE BASELINE *ENERGON*, BUT WITH A *TWIST*. I CAN FIND NOTHING LIKE IT IN ANY DATATRACK.

80 EAST

MY THEORY IS THIS—THE DECEPTICONS FOUND SOME KIND OF *UNCLASSIFIED* ORE, ONE THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO PURIFY AND APPLY *DIRECTLY* TO THEIR SYSTEMS.

THE SEAM WAS SOON EXHAUSTED, NECESSITATING THE MOVE TO OREGON. ONCE THERE, THEY ENGAGED *SIEGE MODE*, PROBABLY TO PROTECT WHAT THEY HAD, AND IN SO DOING BROKE PROTOCOL.

IRONHIDE?

THE BIG MEG'S HERE TO PUT HIS HOUSE IN ORDER, PROWL. TROUBLE IS, THE INFILTRATION UNIT IS *JUICED*. NO TELLING *HOW* POWERFUL THEY ARE.

AND THEN THERE'S US...

...STUCK IN THE *MIDDLE!*

TO BE CONCLUDED.